

## Dido's surprises

Football

AL MUSABBIR SADI

Edson 'Dido' Silva named his national squad for next month's AFC Challenge Cup qualifiers in Dhaka, the Brazilian coach's first assignment for Bangladesh.

There were surprises in the 25-member preliminary squad, which will be short-listed to 23 before the competi-

tion, where the hosts compete with Myanmar, Cambodia and Mongolia/Macao, kicks off on April 26.

While veterans like Alfaz, Nazrul and Abul were axed after being a part of the national team's last mission, in Myanmar, unfamiliar names like fullback Rashed and holding midfielder Manik -- both under-20 players from BKSP -- have made the ranks.

It was also unexpected to see players like Mamun Mia and Emon Babu, both from B. League side Farashganj, join the elite list but Dido defended all his choices.

"It is a simple procedure to make the selection. I watched all the players," Dido told at a press conference at the BFF Bhaban yesterday.

"Although we are picking up the Challenge Cup team,

our focus is on future, especially the SA Games. We have to give the young ones chances to show their worth," the Brazilian said.

"It doesn't mean we haven't picked up the best team," the coach explained.

"We don't have any under-20 or -23 leagues so I had to move from Dhaka to see the youngsters. The names that surprise you belong to Bangladesh's future through my eyes."

A shaven-headed Mamun has been tagged as an arrogant player who is always risk for his own team in terms of conceding penalties but Dido sees him as the fittest player of his 25.

"He is the underdog, I agree. But he has speed, can recover better than any other defender I have. All he needs is some football re-education. He deserved a call," he told this correspondent later adding that his other centre-backs have slowed down but he needs them for their experience in this position.



PHOTO: STAR

National football head coach Edson 'Dido' Silva addressing a press conference yesterday as BFF vice-president Badal Roy (L) and national coach Shafiqul Islam Manik (R) listen at the BFF Bhaban.



PHOTO: STAR

Farashganj footballers and officials celebrate with the Citycell Super Cup Plate trophy after beating Sheikh Russel 1-0 in the final at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

### SQUAD

**Goalkeepers:** Aminul, Himel (Mohammedan), Biplab (Abahani); **defenders:** Rajani, Nasir, Saikat (Mohammedan), Sujon, Waly (Abahani), Anf, Mishu (Brothers), Mamun Mia (Farashganj), Rashed (BKSP); **midfielders:** Aman Aziz, Sharif (Mohammedan), Pranotosh, Zahed, Mamun (Abahani), Zahid, Munna (Brothers), Emon (Farashganj), Manik (BKSP); **forwards:** Robin (Mohammedan), Emily (Abahani), Enamul (Farashganj), Mithun (Chittagong Abahani).



### Did U Know?

Shivnarine Chandepaul scored his tenth century in the second one-day international against England on Sunday and became the third West Indies player to exceed 8,000 runs.



### Jose Mourinho

(Inter Milan soccer coach) "Zlatan Ibrahimovic is a great player but no player is bigger than a club. He has become very important to Inter but certain clubs are bigger than any player or coach."



### Neo Cricket

New Zealand v India  
Second Test, Day One  
Live from 4:00am  
ESPN  
Sportscentre India  
Sports News  
Live at 8:30pm

## India want series

### Second Test against NZ starts today

Cricket

AFP, Napier

India look poised to break a 40-year Test series drought in New Zealand with room to spare when the second match gets under way here Thursday.

India lead the three-match series 1-0 but are overwhelming favourites at McLean Park after demolishing the Black Caps with their 10-wicket victory in Hamilton.

As if their dominance at the wicket wasn't enough, India also have a fully fit squad while New Zealand are struggling with injuries and form.

"We don't think too much about what they're doing because, frankly speaking, it's about us, what we want to achieve," said captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

"How we're preparing ourselves that will have a bigger impact on the game rather than thinking about what the opposition is doing."

Until Hamilton, India had not even won a Test in New Zealand for 33 years and they are now keen to end their even longer wait for a series victory here.

"The first milestone we have achieved," Dhoni said. "Now it's important to play the same kind of cricket in the second and third games."

"Winning the series would be the best gift the team can give to Sachin (Tendulkar) and

Rahul (Dravid)." The star batsmen are both on their last tour to New Zealand.

It was an upbeat assessment by Dhoni, in contrast to New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori who admitted his side was outplayed in all areas in the first Test.

"There are a lot of things we need to quickly improve on if we are to have a chance in Napier," he said, emphasising the Black Caps needed to bat for at least 120 overs an innings, not 80 as they did in the first Test.

"The longevity of the Test match game is what's catching us out," he said.

"We do things well for maybe a session or two but we're not doing it well enough for four or five. That's what the good teams do."

"India played so well in that first Test, they seemed to win every key moment."

New Zealand will wait until the last minute before deciding whether to play Daniel Flynn and Iain O'Brien, who are both carrying slight injuries, but who performed fluidly in the nets on Wednesday.

There were also strong indications the Black Caps will play two spinners, with Jeetan Patel included at the expense of the out-of-form fast bowler Kyle Mills.

The wicket is expected to offer encouragement for the slow bowlers on days four and five but Dhoni said India would probably remain unchanged, leaving Harbhajan Singh as their only spinner.

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PHOTO: AFP

Indian cricketers play football during a practice session at Nelson Park in Napier yesterday. They will play second Test against New Zealand from today.

## Vettori vows a fight

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Wherever you go in New Zealand, as soon as they come to know you are from India and are here for the cricket, a question comes up, "So how many days will your team take this time? Three? Four?" It's all banter that goes the other way too, but it always starts with how weak the New Zealand team is. Daniel Vettori, the New Zealand captain, knows the public deserves better than what happened in Hamilton, a tame defeat in four days. It's not the loss that hurts them as much, but the manner in which they lost.

"They [public] want results, just like we want results," Vettori said on the eve of the Napier Test. "They probably need to see the New Zealand team to come out and fight. The big thing about the New Zealand public is that as long as they see the New Zealand cricket side fight for a result - doesn't matter if there is a hard-fought win or a hard-fought loss, I think

they are satisfied. The performance we put together in Hamilton wasn't consistent with that." In Napier they need to put a fight to keep the series alive. In the last 20 years, New Zealand have been on the wrong side of a dead rubber at home only twice.

New Zealand have been working hard over the last four days, in the nets, in the gym and on their mental make-up. The target is pretty clear: a marked improvement in all the facets of the game, from top-order batting to middle-order batting to opening bowling to spin bowling to fielding to perhaps some out-of-the-box thinking.

The troubles start with a young top order, where Martin Guptill, Tim McIntosh and Daniel Flynn (if he passes the fitness test tomorrow) have 14 Tests between them and seem to offer India an easy target. Vettori, though, wants to repose trust in them and not fiddle with the batting order. He feels it is not a question of quality but of application. Vettori wants the batsmen to work on the longevity of their innings, play out at least 120 overs.

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## President to attend final

SPORTS REPORTER

President Zillur Rahman will attend tomorrow's Citycell Super Cup final as the chief guest. He will also distribute trophies after the final.

The final between the country's two traditional rivals Abahani and Mohammedan for the Tk one-crore championship prize will kick off at the Bangabandhu National Stadium at 5 pm after the third-play-off between losing semifinalists Brothers Union and Chittagong Mohammedan.

## Lankan U-19s arrive April 17

SPORTS REPORTER

Although Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) put Pakistan's tour on hold on security reasons, visits of other international teams are on as scheduled. Sri Lanka Under-19s are scheduled to arrive in Dhaka April 17 to play two Tests and five limited-overs games against their Bangladesh counterparts. Dinesh Chandimal will lead the 15-man squad announced Wednesday.

Bangladesh cricket's chairman of selection committee Rafiqul Alam said that they would announce the squad in the first week of April.

"The squad will be announced before April 5 so that the players can get enough time to know each other in a game where team effort is very important," said Alam to The Daily Star Sport last night.

### LANKAN SQUAD

Dinesh Chandimal (captain), Angelo Perera (vice-captain), Udara Jayasundera, Buvaneka Ekanayake, Kusal Perera, Banuka Rajapakse, Imesh Udayanga, Chaturanga de Silva, Sameera Weerasinghe, Mathusha Perera, Rushan Jaleel, Chathura Peiris, Vimanga Perera, Lahiru Jayaratne, Madushan Ekanayake.

### FIXTURES

April 19-20: Two-day warm-up match.  
April 22-24: First 3-day.  
April 27-29: Second 3-day.  
May 2: First One-day.  
May 4: Second One-day.  
May 5: Third One-day.  
May 7: Fourth One-day.  
May 9: Fifth One-day.

## Enamul WC qualifiers' umpire

SPORTS REPORTER

Enamul Haque will officiate in matches of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2011 qualifiers commencing in Johannesburg from April 1.

International Cricket Council (ICC) has appointed the former Bangladesh left-arm spinner-turned-umpire to conduct the matches in the qualifiers from where four teams will get the tickets to play the World Cup proper along with the ten Test nations.

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## Farashganj Plate champs

SPORTS REPORTER



Citycell SUPER CUP

Farashganj Sporting Club commemorated their 50-year anniversary with the consolation Plate trophy of the Citycell Super Cup yesterday.

In the final of the four bottom teams of the Tk two-crore competition, the riversiders from old-Dhaka defeated Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra by a solitary goal, thanks to Enamul Haque's 68th minute goal.

The Farashganj striker also celebrated his return to the national fold when he scrambled the ball past Russel goalkeeper Niloy and two defenders in his third attempt at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Ugandan substitute Idris Mutubi opened up the Russel defence at the left flank to cut the ball back into the six-yard box and Enamul's first shot came off the goalkeeper. His second was too weak and would not have crossed the line but a Russel defender cleared the ball back to Enamul who was third time lucky to slot home and separate the two sides.

Kamal Babu's Farashganj, which featured three players who have been called for the national squad including central defender Mamun Khan and midfielder Emon Babu, dominated the show but Russel created the better chance of the first half.

Yusuf fired the ball into the side netting after Farashganj fullback Ramjan's low cross from

the right in the 16th minute but their opponents wasted a great chance on the break a minute later.

Monwar picked up Milunovic unmarked at the far post with a centre from the right but the Serbian striker's first-time volley skimmed the crossbar from five yards.

He once again got behind a cross from Alfaz but tapped the ball wide in the 28th minute.

A minute later, Yusuf and Enamul got the better of the Russel backline but Enamul's first effort came off a defensive wall and the long-haired forward failed to keep his backvolley under the bar.

The goal came midway through the second half and Russel got good opportunities to make the scores level. Milunovic set Monwar with a brilliant through ball but the former national midfielder, who shrugged off marker just inside the area, drove a low shot wide of the mark.

There was no solace for Russel coach Wajed Gazi as Alfaz screwed a header wide during a corner ten minutes from time, the last real chance of the Plate final.

Farashganj bagged Tk four lakh as prize money while Russel pocketed Tk three lakh.

Yellow cards: Nurul Islam, Rakibul (Russel)

### TEAMS

**FARASHGANJ:** Sujon, Ramjan, Emeka, Mamun, Uttam, Rajeeb, Kabir, Khokon, Emon (Rintu), Yusuf (Mutubi) and Enamul (Shanto). **RUSSEL:** Niloy, Rakibul, Zahirul, Rachid Ennoury, Hasan, Mobarak, Monwar, Rachid Briggeme, Nurul Islam, Milunovic and Alfaz. Referee: Abdul Hannan.

## Boxer boxed in real life

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

Freedom fighter Abul Hossen was a tough nut to crack in a boxing ring. But the winner of four gold medals including a weighty one in the 1993 Bangladesh Games now lives in penury after being knocked down in real life struggle.

He is now 60 and running a little tea stall at Kashi Bazar in Basail upazila of Tangail. Enjoy a cup of tea at his stall and have a close look at him, you will still find those strong muscular hands and a blunt face of a typical boxer who won three light flyweight (105 pounds) category gold in the inter-divisional tournaments of Bangladesh Army in 1977, 1978 and 1979.

His biggest pride as a boxer came at the fag end of his service days in Bangladesh Army when he won the gold medal in the pinweight (42kg) category at the Bangladesh Games in 1993. It was also the year when he retired from the Army.

Hossen joined the Liberation War in 1971 and fought under the Company-2 commander Mosaddek Ali of Kaderia Bahini at the age of 21. During the Liberation War he fought bravely against the Pakistani military at Hat Balla, Natiapara and Sadar area under Basail upazila in the district.

After the independence, he joined

Bangladesh Army in 1972 as a sepoy with a salary of Tk 140 per month and retired as a havildar.

But since his retirement Hossen found it hard to survive in a battle of completely different kind. During a visit to his home at Kashi recently, this correspondent found that his family of eight had been living in a tiny makeshift room in a small tin shed.

All his medals have lost shine due to lack of care.

He told The Daily Star correspondent that after his retirement he tried to do different businesses but could not succeed. Later, he set up his small tea stall in the passenger shed at the Kashi Bus Stand in a desperate effort to support his family. But the money he earns from the tea stall in the sidelines of a monthly pension of Tk 2,600 he gets from Army is just not enough to barely survive.

Being a freedom fighter, Hossen did not get the FF allowance till 2007. He however started to get that Tk 900 allowance only after the issue was raised in the newspapers.

"Since then I have been maintaining my big family a bit better but it is still tough to survive with prices of everything very high," Abul said.

Another freedom fighter Sirajul Islam of

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PHOTO: STAR

Once a champion in the boxing ring, freedom fighter Abul Hossen (R) now earns his living running a tea stall at Kashi Bazar in Basail Upazila of Tangail.

### DIV I CRICKET

## Khelaghar edge Azad

SPORTS REPORTER

Khelaghar SKS beat Azad SC by one wicket in a nail biter in the First Division Cricket League at BKSP yesterday.

Batting first, Azad made 197-9 in 50 overs with Arafat scoring 52 and Ishaque remaining unbeaten on 46. Khelaghar then crawled home with only three balls to spare and one wicket in hand. Rakib top scored for the winners with 66.

At the Fatullah Cricket Stadium, Kalabagan KC beat Bangladesh Boys by seven wickets. Electing to bat, BD Boys put on a poor batting performance as they were bowled out for 188 in 49.2 overs. Apurbo picked four wickets, conceding 32 runs in his ten overs. Kalabagan then batted patiently with Habibur Rahman contributing 101 runs off 139 balls that featured six

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